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- b) applying a first coating to at least a part of said base;
 - c) applying at least a second coating over at least a portion of said first coating; and
 - d) modifying at least a portion of at least one of said coatings to achieve said edge alignment.
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27. (amended) The method of claim 23, wherein step (a) includes providing a base substrate comprising transfer material, and further including releasing a laminate pattern of applied said coatings from said transfer material by application of at least one of pressure, heat, and radiation.

28. (amended) A method of forming a laminate pattern of coatings onto a material with alignment between at least two of successive coatings along at least one defined edge of the pattern as well as at at least one area of the successive coatings not immediately adjacent said edge, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a three-dimensional base material having at least three surfaces ;
- b) modifying said base material to provide a desired pattern of edges;
- c) applying a first coating to at least one of a first surface of said base material;
- d) applying at least a second coating over at least a portion of said first coating so as to define a laminate pattern of coatings with perimeter coating alignment along at least one defined edge; and
- e) applying a light absorbing coating over at least a portion of a second surface of said base.

29. (amended) The method of claim 28, wherein said base material comprises at least one material selected from a group consisting of paper, metal, glass, and plastic.

30. (amended) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of said first coating and said second coating has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating is substantially opaque, (ii) said coating comprises ink, (iii) said coating forms indicia, and said coating is light transmissive.

31. (amended) The method of claim 28, including a step of applying at least one metal coating over at least a portion of said base substrate.

32. (amended) A method of forming a pattern of coatings onto a panel with perimeter coating alignment between at least a part of successive coatings along at least one edge of the pattern and at at least one area of said successive coatings not immediately adjacent said edge, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a base;
- b) modifying said base to form an edge to define a perimeter for said coatings to achieve substantial alignment;
- c) after forming said edge, applying a first coating to at least a part of said base so as to be in proximity to said edge; and
- d) applying at least one additional coating over at least a portion of said first coating so as to be in proximity to said edge;

wherein alignment exists between said first coating and said additional coating at said edge.

33. (amended) The method of claim 32, wherein at least one said coating has a characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) the coating is substantially opaque, (ii) the coating comprises ink, (iii) the coating comprises printed ink, (iv) the coating comprises machine-printed ink, (v) the coating comprises inkjet-printed ink, (vi) the coating comprises ceramic, and (vii) the coating comprises metal.

35. (amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said step of transferring includes the application of at least one material or force selected from a group consisting of (i) pressure, (ii) heat, (iii) radiation, (iv) treatment, (v) liquid, (vi) powder, (vii) stamping, (viii) deposition, (ix) sublimation, (x) electrostatic attraction, (xi) electrostatic repulsion, (xii) magnetic attraction, (xiii) magnetic repulsion, and (xiv) gravity.

36. (amended) A three-dimensional article of manufacture comprising:

- a) a base substrate having at least three surfaces, one of said surfaces being a base surface adapted to receive at least a first application of at least one coating;
- b) a first coating disposed on at least one surface of said base substrate; and

c) a second coating, having at least one edge defining at least one perimeter, disposed on a least one location selected from (i) at least a portion of said first coating, and (ii) one of said at least three surfaces.

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37. (amended) An article of manufacture according to claim 36, wherein said base substrate has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said base substrate is formable, (ii) said base substrate is deformable, (iii) said base substrate is shape-changeable, (iv) said base substrate is expandable, (v) said base substrate is contractable, (vi) said base substrate includes an area at least partially transmissive to light, (vi) said base substrate is at least partially electrically conductive, (vii) said base substrate is at least partially light transmissive, (ix) said base substrate is at least partially light transmissive to visible light proximate a surface of said base substrate, and (x) said base substrate defines a hollow portion.

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42. (amended) An article of manufacture according to claim 36, wherein at least one said coating has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating forms indicia, (ii) coating is receptive to ink, (iii) said coating is reactive, (iv) said coating is protective, (v) said coating is a release coating, (vi) at least part of said coating is protected, (vii) at least part of said coating is modifiable, (viii) at least part of said coating is applicable using a method selected from a group consisting of (viii-a) transfer, (viii-b) printing, and (viii-c) spraying), (viii-d) transfer, (ix) at least part of said coating is opaque, and (x) at least part of said coating forms indicia.

43. (amended) An article of manufacture according to claim 36, wherein said perimeter has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said perimeter is defined by at least one hole, (ii) said perimeter results from cutting, (iii) said perimeter results from laser cutting, (iv) said perimeter results from punching, (v) said perimeter results from perforating, (vi) said perimeter results from die cutting, (vii) said perimeter results from rotary cutting, (viii) said perimeter is defined by said coating such that passages are formed that are at least partially transmissive to light, and (ix) said perimeter is defined by substantially parallel edges to form individual lines in a pattern.

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51. (amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a first first material having at least one surface adapted for use as a base;
a second material having at least one surface adapted for use as a base;

means for attaching said second material to said first material;
at least one coating;
at least one edge defining a perimeter; and
means for aligning at least one edge of said first material with at least one edge
of said second material.

52. (amended) An article of manufacture, according to claim 51, wherein at least a surface portion of said one coating defines an additional base.

54. (amended) An article of manufacture, according to claim 51, wherein at least one said coating has a characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating is hand-applied, (ii) said coating is hand-sprayed, (iii) said coating is machine sprayed, (iv) said coating is roller-applied, (v) said coating is applied using electrostatic attraction, (vi) said coating is applied using electrostatic repulsion, (vii) said coating is applied using conductive deposition, (viii) said coating is applied using magnetic attraction, (ix) said coating is applied using magnetic repulsion, (x) said coating is applied with charged particles, (xi) said coating is applied with liquid flow, (xii) said coating is transfer-applied, (xiii) said coating is applied with adhesion, and (xiv) said coating is blade applied, (xv) said coating is an applied blade coating, and (xvi) said coating is reverse roll applied.

55. (amended) An article of manufacture, according to claim 51, wherein at least one said coating has a characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating includes ink, (ii) said coating is a liquid, (iii) said coating is a solid, (iv) said coating is a flowable solid, (v) said coating is toner, (vi) said coating is particulate, (vii) said coating is paint-jet applicable, (viii) said coating is a dye, (ix) said coating is a transfer powder, and (x) said coating is a vapor deposited metal.

56. (amended) The method of claim 23, wherein at least one of step (b) and step (c) further includes applying at least one coating to at least a portion of a surface of said base opposite a side of said base to which said first coating was applied.

60. (amended) A method of forming a laminate pattern of coatings onto a material wherein successive coatings are aligned along at least one defined edge as well as at areas of said successive coatings that are not immediately adjacent said edge, the method comprising the steps of:

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- a) providing a base substrate having at least three bases;
 - b) modifying said base substrate on at least one base surface to define at least one edge;
 - c) applying a first coating to said one surface of said base so as to use said edge to define at least one perimeter of said first coating;
 - d) applying a second coating adjacent said first coating so as to use said edge of said substrate to define at least one perimeter of said second coating, and to use an edge of said first coating to define a second edge;
- wherein successive coatings are aligned along said edge as well as at regions of said successive coatings that are not immediate adjacent said edge of said substrate.

63. (amended) The method of claim 60, wherein step (b) is carried out after step (d).

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed 15 April 2002, claims 1-55 were examined. Claims 1-22 stood allowed but claims 23-63 were finally rejected. More specifically, claims 23-27, 36-47, 51-55, and 60-63 were rejected as being anticipated by Yoshimura USP 5,560,796, and claims 28-31 and 36-63 were rejected as being anticipated by Hill USP 4,673,609. Further, claims 32-35 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yoshimura '796 in combination with Hill '609.

In this Preliminary Amendment, applicant now amends claims 23, 37-33, 35-37, 42, 43, 51, 52, 54-56, 60 and 63 to address the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action mailed 31 July 2002 in the underlying application. While applicant does not agree with the Examiner's comments as to potential issues of new matter, the objected-to claims have been rewritten to distinguish over the art of record, without using the objected-to terminology.

Claims 1-63 are pending, wherein claims 1-22 stand allowed.